



File Code: 3410 (NA-02-06)

Date: August 29, 2002

Subject: 2002 Aerial Sketchmapping Survey

To: Kevin Elliott, Forest Supervisor  
Allegheny National Forest

On July 10, 2002, Rick Turcotte and Martin MacKenzie of Forest Health Protection (FHP), Morgantown along with Terry Steffan conducted an aerial sketchmapping survey of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). The accompanying map shows the general locations and types of damage observed during this flight.

This year, no gypsy moth defoliation was observed within the proclamation boundaries of the Forest. However, extensive yellowing crowns (crown conditions may have been exacerbated by the late season freeze that occurred the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>) and scattered mortality pockets were detected in large areas throughout the Bradford and Marienville Districts. Ground checking of these sites identified the cause as beech bark disease (BBD). The following table shows the number of acres sketchmapped for each District.

2002 Sketchmapped Damage in Acres

District	Beech bark disease complex	Unknown discoloration	Total
Bradford	4,179	0	4,179
Marienville	894	22	916
Totals	5,073	22	5,095

Beech bark disease is caused by a combination of both native and introduced organisms. The disease results from the interaction between the introduced beech scale, *Cryptococcus fagisuga* Lind. and the fungus, *Nectria coccinea* var. *faginata* Lohman and *N. galligena* Bres. This complex can cause significant bole cankering and mortality in American beech, *Fagus grandifolia* (Ehrh.). David Houston (NES, Hamden, retired) estimates that resistant beech trees (those that remain scale and defect free) are usually less than 1% of the population of this species, but because they occur in groups, relatively large numbers of them may occur locally within some forests. More information about BBD is given in the enclosed Forest Insect and Disease Leaflet 75.

*Control:* Once the fungus is established in a tree, no known control is currently possible. At this time, FHP is not recommending treatment of this complex, but we will continue to monitor these areas through next year's aerial and ground surveys.



We ask that all field going personnel continue to monitor for the evidence of defoliation, discoloration and mortality in their areas of responsibility and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Terry for his valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Martin MacKenzie at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL  
Field Representative  
Forest Health Protection

Enclosures

Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD w/enclosures  
District Ranger, Marienville RD w/enclosures

JWH/RMT